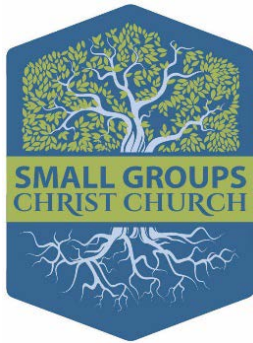


## CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

Epiphany – The Week beginning January 5, 2025



### Read Matthew 2:1, 9-12:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem...ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### Background:

The Feast of the Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem, who visit the Holy Family and bring gifts for the newborn child. The word *epiphania* is a Greek word which means “manifestation,” “showing,” or “public display.” Originally, in the east, this feast was the counterpart of the western nativity and embraced the baptism of Christ, the nativity including the arrival of the Magi, and the “first of the signs” at Cana. Once adopted in the west, it could not embrace the nativity as this was already celebrated on December 25, but since it came so soon after Christmas, it could be related to the nativity by being the day of the arrival of the Magi. So, it moved from being the celebration of the mystery of the public appearing of Jesus to Israel and the nations to being the historicized commemoration of a post-birth event.

### Talking Points:

- The Magi brought valuable gifts to Jesus. What are some “gifts” or talents you can offer to others or to God?
- The Magi kept their eyes on the star and stayed on course. What are some distractions in your life that make it hard to stay focused on your goals or faith?
- The Magi faced challenges like distance and uncertainty. What are some challenges you face in your own journey?
- How can we be more attentive to God’s voice in our daily decisions and actions?

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.